

EDITORIAL

It is with great excitement that the new editorial board presents the 2014 December issue of the Australian and International Journal of Rural Education (AIJRE). It marks the second issue under the new editorial team and the last of AIJREs hard copy format before the journal proceeds to an online-only format in 2015. It is our hope that by transitioning to an online platform we will be able to increase readers' access to our authors' work, and thus improve the reach and impact of the research our authors work so hard upon.

The articles in this journal reveal emerging fields of research and a sense of change in the rural research landscape. The topics presented transcend across schooling sectors and notions of place. Core themes related to technologies, ethics and marginalized groups are woven throughout the articles. Technologies such as blogging, virtual practice and teaching are presented as a means of preparing, connecting and engaging rural and remote pre-service teachers, students and leaders. One can argue that these technologies have the ability to connect and disconnect groups from their place and their own space and in so doing empower, inform or continue to isolate. This leads to the importance of ethics in practice and support networks for minority and marginalized working in rural spaces. The exploration of the impact of technologies, the importance of ethical practices and the need for support networks is particularly pertinent in a borderless world that has opened up education opportunities for anyone to learn anything from anyone, anywhere.

On this, it is an exhilarating time for the AIJRE team as it heralds the launch of an online professional journal in 2015. We hope to increase the readership and impact factor of our journal in the coming year by providing a platform that can be accessed by anyone, anywhere at anytime. To support our future growth and direction we may require more reviewers. If you are interested and want to be added to our reviewer database please contact Di Gardiner (diane.gardiner@curtin.edu.au).

The Editorial team of AIJRE and the SPERA committee would like to wish you all a relaxed and rejuvenating holiday period.

Kind regards

The Editorial Board